



**RHODE ISLAND**  
**YOUTH LEADERSHIP FORUM**  
**August 8-11, 2005**

Camp Canonicus  
Exeter, Rhode Island

**An invitation for you to apply to participate in the  
2005 Youth Leadership Forum for Students with Disabilities.**

The Rhode Island Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) is an innovative, exciting program for high school juniors and seniors with disabilities who have demonstrated leadership capabilities in their communities and schools. The four-day forum includes many activities to help you to further develop your leadership potential and identify and clarify your future goals. This year's event will take place from August 8 - 11, 2005 at Camp Canonicus in Exeter, Rhode Island. Approximately 15 students with disabilities will be selected to participate.

Enclosed is an application form for the 2005 Forum. More detailed information about the YLF is enclosed in this packet, along with an application form.

**Completed application packets are to be postmarked no later than March 28, 2005 and sent to:**

Rhode Island Youth Leadership Forum  
c/o OSCIL  
1944 Warwick Ave  
Warwick, RI 02889.

*The Youth Leadership Forum is a cooperative project between the Office of Rehabilitation Services, Ocean State Center for Independent Living, PARI Independent Living Center, RI Regional Transition Centers and other state and community organizations.*

*There is no cost to students or their families. Overnight lodging, food, interpreters for the deaf, personal care attendants for students with physical disabilities and transportation during the forum will be provided.*

If you have any questions about this program, please call  
Susan Shapiro at 421-7005 x 421  
or Carol McKenna at 738-1013

**DEADLINE TO APPLY: MARCH 28, 2005**



## HOW STUDENT DELEGATES WILL BE SELECTED

To be eligible for the Youth Leadership Forum, students must:

- Have a disability;
- Be in the 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade by December, 2004 (some grade exceptions may be made);
- Have demonstrated leadership potential in school and/or the community;
- Reside in Rhode Island.

Semi-finalists will be selected and contacted by phone to arrange an interview. The interview will be conducted by a panel coordinated by the RI Youth Leadership Forum Steering Committee. Interviews will take place by April 15, 2005.

Applicants will be notified by letter whether they have been selected to attend the forum by May 14, 2005.

After being selected, students will be asked to complete a confirmation of participation and provide additional information.

There is no cost to students or their families. Overnight lodging, food, and transportation during the forum will be provided. When possible, interpreters for the deaf and personal care attendants for students with disabilities also will be provided.



**YOUTH LEADERSHIP FORUM**  
**FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**  
**AUGUST 8 - 11, 2005**

Page 1

**APPLICATION FORM**  
Application deadline March 28, 2005

- ✓ Students must complete ALL 4 application pages.
- ✓ Please type or print with black ink.
- ✓ Mail the application to the address on the last page.
- ✓ Please see Page 4 for additional application instructions.

Name: Last \_\_\_\_\_ First \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_ Male \_\_\_\_\_ Female \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Name of High School \_\_\_\_\_

School Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

School Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Guidance Counselor Name \_\_\_\_\_

Current Grade Level \_\_\_\_\_ Expected Date of Graduation: \_\_\_\_\_

---



**Information about your disability**

Please describe your disability or medical diagnosis. This information will assist in assuring that we include delegates with a diversity of disabilities.

---

---

---

---

When did your disability begin?: \_\_\_\_\_

Check **all** that apply:

<input type="checkbox"/> I use sign language	<input type="checkbox"/> I cannot walk upstairs
<input type="checkbox"/> I use lip reading	<input type="checkbox"/> I cannot walk long distances
<input type="checkbox"/> I use real time captioning	<input type="checkbox"/> I need assistance with daily living activities
<input type="checkbox"/> I read Braille	<input type="checkbox"/> I have other constraints not specified here
<input type="checkbox"/> I read with large print	Please describe _____
<input type="checkbox"/> I use a wheelchair	_____

**Information on Office of Rehabilitation Services**

Are you a client of the Office of Rehabilitation Services? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, what is your Rehabilitation Counselor's name? \_\_\_\_\_

**School Information**

Please list the school classes in which you are currently enrolled

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Please state your cumulative grade point average: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Reading Grade Level \_\_\_\_\_ (If necessary, ask your teacher for assistance.)

**Activities**

Below, please briefly list your involvement with your school and community. This may include any offices you held, club memberships, after school activities or work experiences. List the length of involvement, the grade you were in at the time of participation, and the name of an adult with whom you worked. *If more space is needed, please attach an additional page.*

**School Activities**

Name of Activity	Start Date	End Date	Grade	Adult Contact

**Community Activities:**

Name of Activity	Start Date	End Date	Grade	Adult Contact

**Letters of Recommendation:**

Please attach two letters of recommendation which describe your demonstrated leadership skills or your leadership potential. One letter must be from a high school representative and one must be from a community representative outside of your school. List name, position/title, organization and telephone number of the two people who will write these letters.

Name	Title		
	( )		
Organization	Area Code	Telephone Number	

Name	Title		
	( )		
Organization	Area Code	Telephone Number	

**Required :**

Your answers to the following questions will be used to assess your readiness to participate in this leadership forum. Please write your responses on separate paper and attach to your completed application packet. Your total response for all four of these topics should not exceed four (4) typewritten, double-spaced pages.

**(Responses must be double-spaced and either typewritten or printed in black ink. Accommodation requests for alternative format submissions should be made to Susan Shapiro, 421-7005, ext. 421.)**

1. **QUALIFICATIONS** – Explain why you feel you are qualified to be a delegate to this forum and please tell us why you want to attend.
2. **POSITIVE INFLUENCES** – In terms of leadership, please tell us about two people who have positively influenced your life. Why? (Families, teachers, counselors, friends, public official or celebrities are appropriate examples.)
3. **EXPERIENCES AS A PERSON WITH A DISABILITY** – Describe two important experiences you have had as a young person with a disability. (Please be specific about your examples as they relate to your disability.)
4. **FUTURE PLANS** – Describe your plans for after high school graduation.

---

Signature of Student

---

Date

**Please use the checklist below to make certain your application packet is complete. All questions must be answered and requested letters and information provided.**

---

Required Items	Enclosed
1. Completed application form (3 pages) with student signature on page 4	
2. Two letters of recommendation	
3. Response to four topics	

**Thank you for completing this application. Please mail to:**  
**Rhode Island Youth Leadership Forum**  
**c/o OSCIL**  
**1944 Warwick Ave.**  
**Warwick, RI 02889**

**Completed applications must be postmarked no later than March 28, 2005.**  
**If you have any questions, please call Susan, 421-7005, ext. 421, or Carol, 738-1013**

---



## FACT SHEET

# YOUTH LEADERSHIP FORUM FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES August 8 –11, 2005

## WHAT KIND OF STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN THE YOUTH LEADERSHIP FORUM?

Young People Who Have Disabilities and Who...

- ✱ Demonstrate Leadership Potential
- ✱ Demonstrate Academic Success
- ✱ Demonstrate Involvement in Extracurricular Activities (such as Sports, the Arts or Music)
- ✱ Demonstrate Community Involvement
- ✱ Demonstrate the Ability to Interact Effectively with Other Students

## **WHAT HAPPENS AT THE FORUM?**

We...

1. Bring together young people with disabilities who demonstrate potential leadership qualities;
2. Share information with each other which is beneficial to the communities represented. Education programs will include such topics as “developing self-esteem,” “choosing a career,” “the history of disability as a culture,” and “assistive technology for independence.” Presenters who meet with the students include disability community leaders, legislators, and numerous other professionals;
3. Identify existing barriers to personal and professional success and develop plans to deal with those barriers;
4. Assist each student in developing a “personal leadership plan” which includes specific action plans for the students when they return to their communities.

**(The forum includes small group discussions with fellow students, large group presentations by successful community leaders, a dance, a talent show, a formal luncheon with community leaders, and a visit to the State House to meet with government officials.)**



## **WHY HAVE THIS FORUM?**

Young people with disabilities have more opportunities and more challenges than at any other time in our nation's history. With the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), they have unprecedented opportunities to fully develop as constructive, contributing members of our society. However, many need encouragement to develop as leaders in their communities. Our forum enables them to learn from each other and from successful adults with disabilities who are recognized leaders and role models. Such a forum benefits not only the participants, but all young people with disabilities, our communities in general, and the adults who assist in producing the forum.

### **GOALS OF YOUTH LEADERSHIP FORUM**

1. Invoke standards of human worth and success that value diversity and uniqueness and help each student gain greater appreciation of his or her particular strengths and personal style;
2. Expose the students to role models: successful adults with disabilities – athletes, artists, educators, and community leaders – who can share constructive experiences related to disability and who can credibly encourage the students to view themselves positively, set high goals for themselves, and pursue those goals confidently.
3. Teach principles of leadership and challenge the students to realize their own leadership potential;
4. Emphasize the importance of work in one's life and underscore the assumption that the students have not only a right but a social obligation to realize their full career potential;
5. Help the students develop their academic, career, and leadership goals and help the students develop the assertiveness and self-presentation skills needed to achieve those goals;
6. Inform the students about various resources available to help them attain independence, positions of leadership, including sources of assistive technology, sources of community support, and the rights guaranteed under the Americans with Disabilities Act;
7. Encourage the students to learn from each other about living with a disability;
8. Inform the students that they need not experience their disabilities in isolation: the students quickly find their place in an active and cohesive community of disabled persons;
9. Make the students aware that they are links in the continuing history of disabled persons, a history that includes the efforts of disabled persons to establish their civil rights.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL SUSAN SHAPIRO at 421-7005, ext 421.**

---